

AMENDMENT

In response to the Office Action dated December 5, 2002, please amend the present application as shown on the attached pages. Specifically, please amend claim 11 to depend on claim 10 instead of claim 9. In addition, please amend claims 1, 9, and 13 so that the second step reads “placing said sheet in contact with a contoured molding machine . . .” instead of “locating said sheet in proximity with a contoured molding machine . . .”

Remarks

Claims 1-5, 7-18, and 20 remain pending in this application. The Examiner has rejected all of these claims. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the application in light of the amendments above and arguments below.

First, the Examiner rejected claim 11 stating that the phrase “said thermoplastic elastomer” lacked antecedent basis. Applicant has amended claim 11 so that it depends from claim 10 instead of claim 9. In claim 10, the thermoplastic material stated originally in claim 9 is further limited to a thermoplastic elastomer. Thus, the phrase “said thermoplastic elastomer” in amended claim 11 has an antecedent basis, and Applicant respectfully requests that this rejection be withdrawn.

Applicant has also amended claims 1, 9, and 13 to emphasize that in the second step of each method the thermoplastic material having a plurality of nibs extending from one side is placed in contact with a contoured molding tool so that the side with the nibs is directed away from the tool. This step occurs before the heating and drawing steps. Applicant respectfully submits that the claims as amended are in condition for allowance and such favorable action is respectfully requested. Furthermore, Applicant submits that the remaining claims depend from these independent claims and requests that those claims be allowed as well.